

Application No.: 10/815,867
Art Unit: 3634

Attorney Docket No. 18455.02
Confirmation No. 9981

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (*Currently Amended*) A vertical utensil holder, comprising:

2 at least one upright support rod; and

3 a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted
4 on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated
5 receptacles;

6 wherein said at least one upright support rod consists of a single upright support rod having a
7 bottom end, the vertical utensil holder further comprising a horizontally disposed base receptacle adapted
8 for receiving a utensil, the base receptacle being attached to the bottom end of said support rod, said
9 column of elevated receptacles being disposed above the base receptacle in vertical alignment therewith,
10 and

11 wherein each said receptacle includes a depression defined on an upper surface thereof adapted
12 for corresponding in shape to the contours of kitchen utensils.

Claims 2-7 (*Canceled*)

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1 Claim 8 (*Currently Amended*) The A vertical utensil holder of claim 2, comprising:
2 at least one upright support rod; and
3 a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted
4 on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated
5 receptacles;
6 wherein said at least one upright support rod consists of a single upright support rod having a
7 bottom end, the vertical utensil holder further comprising a horizontally disposed base receptacle adapted
8 for receiving a utensil, the base receptacle being attached to the bottom end of said support rod, said
9 column of elevated receptacles being disposed above the base receptacle in vertical alignment therewith;
10 and
11 wherein each said elevated receptacle and said base receptacle includes handle fasteners for
12 securing a kitchen utensil thereto.

1 Claim 9 (*Original*) The vertical utensil holder of claim 8, wherein said handle fasteners are spring clasps.

Claims 10 and 11 (*Canceled*)

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1 Claim 12 (*Currently Amended*) ~~The A~~ vertical utensil holder, ~~of claim 1~~, further comprising:
2 at least one upright support rod;
3 a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted
4 on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated
5 receptacles; and
6 at least one upright compartment mounted vertically alongside said column of elevated receptacles.

1 Claim 13 (*Currently Amended*) ~~The A~~ vertical utensil holder ~~of claim 1~~, comprising:
2 at least one upright support rod; and
3 a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted
4 on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated
5 receptacles;
6 wherein said at least one upright support rod comprises a plurality of upright support rods, the
7 vertical utensil holder further comprising a plurality of receptacle tracks, each receptacle track having a pair
8 of side rails and an end rail joined together to form a "U" guide, each of the rails having a lengthwise
9 channel formed therein, each of said receptacles being a tray slidably disposed in one of said receptacle
10 guides.

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1 Claim 14 (*Original*) The vertical utensil holder according to claim 13, wherein each said receptacle tray
2 is a generally flat, planar, rectangular member having linear side edges, each of said receptacle trays being
3 slidably disposed in said guides, the side edges being slidably disposed in the channels defined by the side
4 rails and end rails of said guides.

1 Claim 15 (*Original*) The vertical utensil holder according to claim 13, wherein each said receptacle tray
2 has a depression defined in an upper surface thereof corresponding in shape to contours of a kitchen utensil.

1 Claim 16 (*Currently Amended*) The A vertical utensil holder according to claim 1, comprising:
2 at least one upright support rod; and
3 a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted
4 on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated
5 receptacles;
6 wherein each said at least one receptacle tray further comprises a hood covering at least part of
7 each said receptacle.

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1 Claim 17 (*Currently Amended*) ~~The~~ A vertical utensil holder ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:
2 at least one upright support rod; and
3 a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted
4 on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated
5 receptacles;
6 wherein each said receptacle further comprises a handle support defined on an upper surface
7 thereof.

Claims 18- 20 (*Canceled*)